

HONORING SECOND LIEUTENANT
YER VANG

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life and service of the late Second Lieutenant Yer Vang. Second Lieutenant Vang served the United States of America honorably during the Vietnam War.

Yer Vang was born on February 2, 1960, at Ban Long Xai, Muan Long Xai, in the Xieng Khouang province in the Kingdom of Laos. He attended Ban Na Elementary School. In March of 1972, when he reached the age of twelve, he was recruited to train at Muang Cha Military Training Center, located in the Xieng Khouang province.

Upon completion of his military training, Yer Vang was assigned to work as a water supplier and a mail carrier at the 228th Battalion Headquarters. On January 1, 1973, he was transferred to the 2281st Company Infantry Division of the 228th Battalion Special Guerrilla Units (SGU), 1st Strike Division Infantry of the United States Secret Army. Yer Vang fought in the Vietnam War with this unit through May of 1975. During this tenure of his service, he took part in many important missions advanced by the United States Secret Army and was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

After the communist takeover of Laos in May of 1975, Yer Vang's unit was stationed south of the Plains des Jarres. Unable to be airlifted to a U.S. Airbase in Thailand, Yer Vang had to flee his position and go into hiding in fear of being persecuted by the ruling government. He remained in hiding until June of 1979, when he passed through the jungles of Laos by moonlight and crossed the Mekong River to safety in Thailand.

Yer Vang was a political refugee at Ban Vinai Camp in Thailand for twenty years. On January 31, 1990, he came to the United States and began his life in Fresno, California. Once resettled in Fresno, Yer Vang attended Fresno Adult School, where he graduated in 1993. He worked at a local Pizza Hut for two years, before he was hired as a teacher's aide for Fresno Unified School District in August of 1995. In 1997, Yer Vang was selected to be a board member of the Lao Veterans of America, where he served as Treasurer from 1997 through 2000 and Secretary from 2005 through 2012.

Second Lieutenant Yer Vang passed away on June 24, 2012. He is survived by his wife, whom he married while in the refugee camp in Thailand. The couple has thirteen children: three sons and ten daughters.

For his military service, Yer Vang was awarded the Bronze Medal from the King of Laos, the United States Special Forces in Laos Medal, and multiple commendations and citations from the United States Congress. He was also honored by the United States Congress with the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Veterans Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Second Lieutenant Yer Vang for his heroic service to the United States of America and extending our deepest condolences to his family. His legacy serves

as an example of excellence, and his contributions to our country will not be forgotten.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3803 would prevent abortions of unborn children who are more than 20 weeks after fertilization—the age at which scientific evidence shows that they can feel great pain.

This bill will prevent brutal, late term abortion procedures, including one in which unborn children are mutilated and dismembered while they are still alive. Only the most calloused among us can hear the description of these types of procedures and not react with disgust.

I strongly believe that life begins at conception, and that we should protect the lives of innocent unborn children. I wish this bill went even further, but the absolute least we can do is ban abortion when we know the unborn children experience great pain. I urge support of this important legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN AND BETTY DODD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of joy that I recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the wedding of John and Betty Dodd, two outstanding and esteemed citizens of Farmers Branch, Texas.

John and Betty were married on August 19, 1962, and have lived in Dallas County ever since. They have both led inspiring lives dedicated to education and our community. John is a Certified Financial Planner and CEO of Honors Academy, a nonprofit organization that operates charter schools. He has served as a member of the Dallas Independent School District Board, a city council member and the mayor of Farmers Branch, and remains active in many community organizations. Betty is a teacher and a volunteer and board member at several organizations including her children's schools, Prestonwest Republican Women, Farmers Branch Civic League, and Farmers Branch Women's Club. Truly, the Dodds have been valuable assets in the town that they call home.

They have raised a family together and are the dedicated parents of David Dodd and Angela Dodd Miller. John and Betty are also the loving parents-in-law of Shannon and Jon, and grandparents of Justin and Caroline Dodd, and Matthew, Caroline, Nathan, and Andrew Miller. The Dodds are members of First United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratu-

lating John and Betty Dodd on 50 years of marriage, a truly noteworthy testament to their strong commitment to each other and to the beauty of marriage.

TRIBUTE TO HORACE CURLIN HALL III

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Horace Curlin Hall III, an up-standing lawyer, devoted father and true friend to the South Texas community. Mr. Hall will be long remembered as a man who was dedicated to his country, his family and his profession for years after his passing.

Mr. Hall, a third generation Laredoan, attended Martin High School where he graduated at the young age of fifteen. A lifetime Longhorn, he attended The University of Texas at Austin, where he joined the Sigma Chi fraternity, an organization whose fundamental purpose is to promote the core values of friendship, justice and learning—all virtues he modeled throughout his lifetime. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1950, he honorably served his country as First Lieutenant in the Army during the Korean Conflict. Upon his return from Korea, he enrolled at The University of Texas School of Law and received his degree in 1955.

While attending law school, Mr. Hall met and married Nancy Louise Black and together they raised five daughters. Mr. Hall presented each daughter as a debutante in the Society of Martha Washington, a bicultural organization committed to celebrating the legacy of our country and chartered in part by Mr. Hall's grandmother, Camila Scott Hall. An endlessly supportive father and an advocate of education, Mr. Hall encouraged each daughter to attend college.

Regarded as a distinguished lawyer, Mr. Hall joined his father's law firm in Laredo, Texas, and practiced until passing, advocating on behalf of those that shared his loyalty to the South Texas community. In continuation of his commitment to education, Mr. Hall legally represented Laredo Community College throughout most of his career. Included in the list of clients to the firm were banks, construction companies and the Association of Laredo Forwarding Agents, an organization whose purpose is to promote local corporations at both the national and international level.

Mr. Hall was well known for his many passions outside of his profession, including a love of literature and poetry, which he shared with those close to him. He enjoyed the South Texas country and was considered an excellent marksman, often bringing together his family after a hunt for a gourmet meal. His sense of humor was one of his greatest characteristics, attracting friends that remained faithful to him until the end.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Horace Curlin Hall III. He is no longer with us, but his contributions not only to his country and family, but also to his profession and his beloved community will live on.